

## Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01  
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02  
SS-15 USIA-06 ACDA-07 OMB-01 /077 W  
-----221904Z 040033 /53

R 221429Z MAR 77  
FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2314  
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN  
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT  
AMEMBASSY CAIRO  
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

C O N F I D E N T I A L DAMASCUS 1883

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PFOR, SY, PLO  
SUBJECT: KHADDAM DISCUSSES PNC MEETING

1. IN MEETING MARCH 22, I REMINDED KHADDAM OF HIS COMMENTS OF LAST WEEK THAT SYRIA ANTICIPATED NO CHANGE IN PLO POSTURE TO RESULT FROM PNC MEETINGS IN CAIRO AND SAID IT APPEARED WE HAD WITNESSED BASICALLY A REPLY OF THE 1974 PNC. RECALLED SECRETARY'S STATEMENT (STATE 48334) THAT WE WERE LOOKING FORWARD TO FUTURE DISCUSSIONS WITH THE ARAB GOVERNMENTS ABOUT THE PRINCIPAL PROCEDURAL ISSUE OF PALESTINIAN PARTICIPATION IN NEGOTIATING PROCESS. IN THIS CONNECTION, DID KHADDAM SEE ANYTHING WHICH COULD BE PORTRAYED AS A POSTIVE RESULT OF PNC CONFERENCE? ALSO ASKED HIM ABOUT REPORTS THE NEW EXCOMM WAS SECRETLY AWARDED AUTHORITY TO OVERRULE THE GUIDELINES SET FORTH IN THE PNC'S 15 POINT PROGRAM AND WHAT SIGNIFICANCE HE SAW IN ALF'S REJOINING THE EXCOM.

2. KHADDAM REPLIED THE BASIC REASON SYRIA HAD NOT EXPECTED ANY CHANGE IN THE PLO POSTURE WAS BECAUSE PNC SESSION HAD  
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BEEN HELD IN ABSENCE OF ANY CHANGE IN THE ISRAELI POSTION. IT WAS ILLOGICAL TO EXPECT A CHANGE ON THE PART OF ONE PARTY ONLY. THE PROBLEM MUST BE SEEN AS A WHOLE. ISRAELI STATEMENTS ON SUBJECTS CONCERNING THE PALESTINIANS HAD IF ANYTHING BECOME INCREASINGLY INTRANGSIENT.

3. SAID HE UNABLE TO ADDRESS THE QUESTION OF WHETHER THE

EXCOMM HAD INCREASED SECRET AUTHORITY AS A RESULT OF THE PNC DECISIONS. ALTHOUGH HE WAS AWARE OF PRESS REPORTS TO THIS EFFECT, EXCOMM MEMBERS HAD NOT YET RETURNED TO DAMASCUS. HOWEVER, HE PERSONALLY DOUBTED THE EXCOMM WOULD HAVE ANY MAJOR NEW AUTHORITY.

4. RE ELECTION TO EXCOMM OF ALF REP ABDUL RAHIM AHMED, THAT REP HAD SIMPLY REPLACED THE ALF'S FORMER REPRESENTATIVE, DR. ABDUL WAHHAB KAYYALI. THE ALF HAD "FROZEN" ITS PARTICIPATION IN THE EXCOMM OVER A YEAR AGO. KHADDAM SAW NO SPECIAL SIGNIFICANCE IN ITS DECISION TO PUT AHMED ON THE EXCOMM. HE DENIED THAT ALF'S ACTION IN ANY WAY REFLECTED A WARMING UP IN SYRO-IRAQI RELATIONS. MURPHY

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PERSONAL OPINION, PALESTINIANS, MEETINGS  
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**Copy:** SINGLE  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
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**TAGS:** PFOR, SY, XF, PLO, (KHADDAM, ABD AL-HALIM)  
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**Review Markings:**  
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